



U.S. Department of Justice

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## News Release

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing today of Emmanuel Osho, age 50, of Centreville, Virginia, to 63 months of imprisonment and full restitution to seven different credit card companies and 56 credit unions, totaling \$3,678,502.20, by the Honorable T.S. Ellis III, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. Osho pled guilty in July 2005 to a wire fraud charge for his involvement in the stealing of credit cards.

While employed by United Airlines inside Dulles International Airport as a ramp services clerk, Osho stole bulk quantities of credit cards from the U.S. mail as the credit card mailings were routed through the airport on United commercial carriers for delivery to customers in Northern Virginia and elsewhere on the East Coast.

The charges against Osho arose from a five year investigation by the Postal Inspection Service of mail thefts and credit card losses linked to mailings routed through Dulles Airport. Osho admitted that for approximately two years, while working in the Airport Operations Area at Dulles Airport, he would wait for opportunities to steal credit card mailings from trays of mail off-loaded from United flights. He also admitted stealing as many envelopes as he could at a given time, and smuggling the envelopes containing credit cards out of the airport using a black duffle bag that he kept with him while working. Osho stated that he delivered the stolen credit cards to another co-conspirator, Ademola Idowu, who lived in Brooklyn, New York. Idowu re-sold or distributed the stolen cards to "strikers" who made fraudulent purchases and cash advance withdrawals from banks and credit unions using the stolen cards. The defendant admitted that there were more than 250 victims of the scheme and that the resulting financial loss was between \$2.5 and \$7 million. Idowu was sentenced in June 2005 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, to 63 months in prison for his involvement in the credit card scam.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This defendant was the central and critical figure in a large-scale scheme that jeopardized the public's confidence in our mail and credit card systems. This case demonstrates our strong resolve to bring to justice those who engage in identity theft and those who violate airport security."

"There are over 142 million business and American households that entrust the U.S. Postal Service to deliver more than 206 billion pieces of mail each year; the vast majority of it arrives intact and on time. When someone chooses to violate that trust, it is justice that is

delivered, as it was today. The successful resolution of this case demonstrates Postal Inspectors' commitment to protecting postal customers and the U.S. mail from criminal attack," said Guy J. Cottrell, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Inspector Cottrell expressed his thanks to U. S. Attorney McNulty's office for its aggressive prosecution of the case.

The United States Postal Inspection Service handled the investigation, and Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie Bibighaus Hammerstrom prosecuted the case for the government.

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